

or persuade some one else to do so. In no case may a man doctor his wares in order to get for them a higher price than they are really worth, and in no case may he conceal any defects of quality ; if he was so unlucky as to have bought an inferior article, he " may not repair [his] loss by doing as [he] was done by, . . . no more than [he] may cut another's purse because [his] was cut/' Rivalry in trade, Baxter thinks, is inevitable. But the Christian must not snatch a good bargain " out of greedy covetousness, nor to the injury of the poor . . . nor . . . so as to disturb that due and civil order which should be among moderate men in trading.¹¹ On the contrary, if ^M a covetous oppressor "offer a poor man less than his goods are worth, " it may be a duty to offer the poor man the worth of his commodity and save him from the oppressor,"

The principles which should determine the contract between buyer and seller are applied equally to all other economic relations. Usury, in the sense of payment for a loan, is not in itself unlawful for Christians.

But it becomes so, when the lender does not allow the borrower " such a proportion of the gain as his labour, hazard, or poverty doth require, but . . . will live at ease upon his labours ^{1f}; or when, in spite of the borrower's misfortune, he rigorously exacts his pound of flesh ; or when interest is demanded for a

loan which
charity would require to be free. Masters
must discipline their servants for their good ; but
it is " an
odious oppression and injustice to defraud a
servant or
labourer of his wages, yea, or to give him
less than he
deserveth." As the descendant of a family
of yeomen,
¹¹ free,¹¹ as he says, " from the temptations
of poverty
and riches," ^{s2} Baxter had naturally strong
views as
to the ethics of landowning. Significantly
enough, he
deals with them under the general rubric of
" Cases of
oppression, especially of tenants,"
oppression being
defined as the " injuring of inferiors who are
unable to
resist or to right themselves." " It is too
common a